



Threats to Coral Reefs

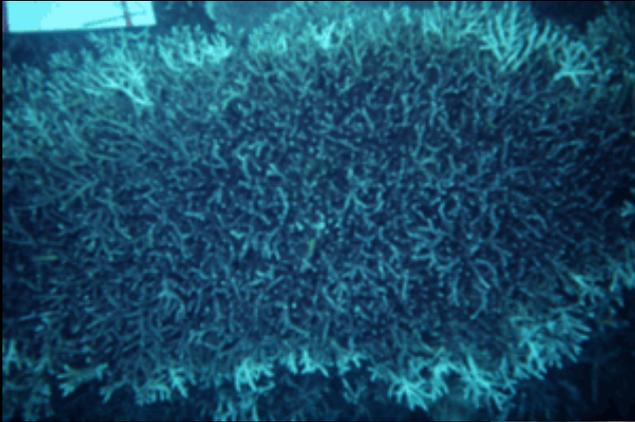
Natural and Human



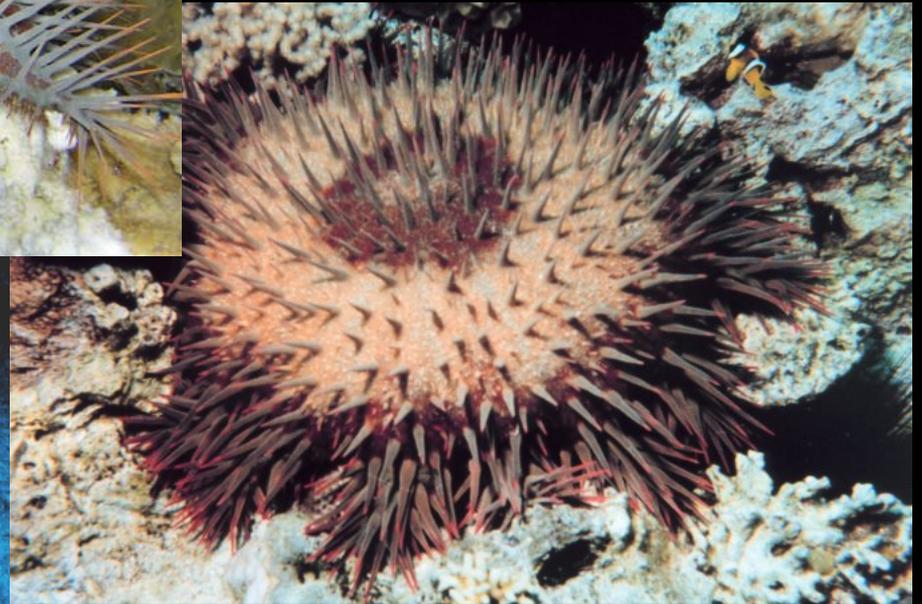
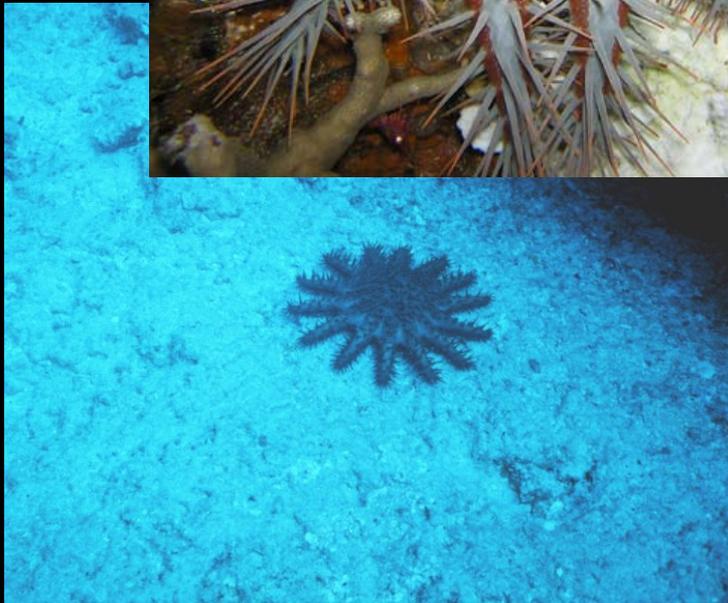
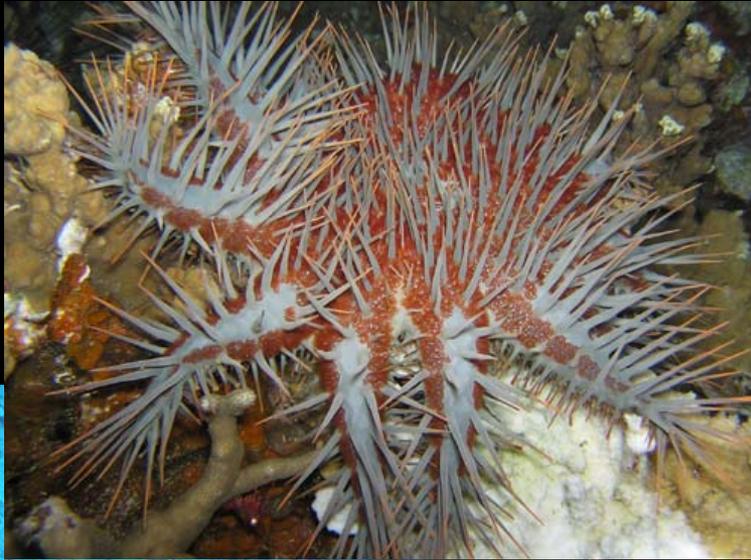
Threats from Nature

- Unusually strong waves such as those from a hurricane
- Water temperature changes
- Dramatic changes in saltiness of water
- Predators, such as snails and crown of thorns starfish
- Overgrowth of algae

Coral-eating Snails



Crown of Thorns Starfish



Threats from Humans

- Pollution
 - *Sediments* block light from zooxanthellae
 - *Chemicals* either poison corals or allow too much algae to grow
- Power plants
 - Filter water and kill fish and plankton
 - Releasing hot water kills organisms

Pollution



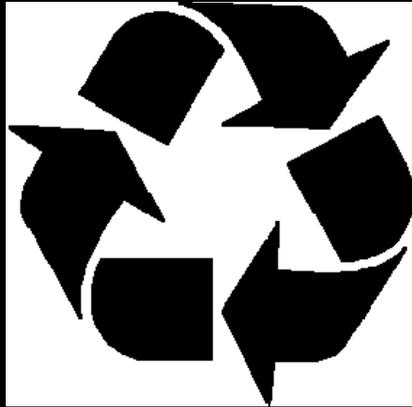
Power Plants



More Threats from Humans

- Deforestation
 - Causes erosion which clouds the water
 - Burning of trees could be a factor in climate change
- Destructive fishing
 - Blasting with dynamite
 - Cyanide poison
 - Boats running aground, anchors
 - Overfishing

It's up to Us to Save Coral Reefs



Be Responsible.